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Madeline Lucette Ryley has dramatized 'A Man From America" for the London Criterion, under the management of Chas. Wyndham and Arthur Balfour.

William Faversham's health is improving fast, and he was able to write notes of congratulations to the members of the Empire Company on New Year day.

Nellie Lynch, who danced so cleverly in this city with the defunct "Star and Gar-ter" company, has been secured for the Seabrooke "Rounders" organization. James J Corbett, the pugilist, is said to have offered \$5,000 for Harrison Wolfe's play, "Cashel Byron," before its recent dis-

istrous trial performance in New York. Edmund Collier, an actor of the old

school, died in New York last week. He played prominent parts with Booth, Mc-Cullough and other Shakespearean actors. Thomas Q. Seabrooke will produce an en-

Contracts were signed last Tues-A French comedy, entitled "The Devil in

New York," may be produced in Croker-

soon by Oscar Hammerstein. It will probably be given under a different Romantic drama appears to have the call. Julia Marlowe is rehearing a new piece, entitled "The Sword of the King," and

The Orpheum Theater, Brooklyn, constructed at a cost of \$350,000, opened its doors for the first time last Tuesday night. he Strakosch Opera Company being the

will give it an early presentation in New

Melbeurne McDowell has severed relations with the Brune-Tittle-McDowell com-bination, and will appear as a stock star at the Hopkins Theater, Chicago, for a

When Mrs. Leslie Carter is seen in a new play Charles Stevenson, her present leading man, will not be with her. He continues with the "Zaza" company over the western circuit. Chief Parris of the fire department has

been invited to attend the performance of "Still Alarm" on Monday night and inspect the mechanism by which the stage effects

Julia Morrison, who shot Joseph Patter-on, stage manager of the "Mr. Plaster of Paris" company, about a year ago, filed papers for divorce from her husband, Fred. James, in New York recently. John Drew, who has been playing "Rich-

ard Carvel" so successfully in New York since the opening of the season, has already been booked for a new play for next full by his manager, Charles Frohman.

Comic opera managers have been after Ezra Kendall with flattering offers, but without effect. Mr. Kendall says he pre-fers vaudeville and recently signed a contract covering fifty weeks, said to be \$700

Only two changes have occurred in the east of Charles B. Hanford's new play this season. Mr. Walter Montague has assumed the part of Alexis Lemmee and charles Mylot that of Major Wasworth.

Notwithstanding the fact that two houses e now dividing up the burlesque business this city, both Treasurer Wison of the Bijou and Treasurer Ridge Waller of the Lyceum report one of the best seasons in

The well-known Washington actress, Effle Darling, is now leading lady with Belasco's Central Theater Stock Company, San Franosco. This new house was opened December 22, with Miss Darling in "The Heart of

been doing very little work since he brought out "Jack and the Beanstalk," but it is now announced that he has almost fin-ished two new pieces, "Miss Simplicity" and "The Golf Girl."

Big-hearted Blanche Walsh made her "More Than Queen" company very happy Christmas day at Memphis by presenting them with valuable gifts and in addition provided an elaborate banquet after the night's performance.

"Captain Jenks" will have its first pre-sentation in Philadelphia next Monday ght, with Edwin Stevens and Ethel Barrymore in the principal parts. The play will remain two weeks in the Quaker city and then go to New York for a run.

Ada Gilman, who has been playing the leading role in "The Casino Girl" in Lon-don until recently, signed a contract in that that city last Tuesday to appear in the New York production of "The Gay Gri-sette," under the management of Mr.Cham-

J. E. Dodson, the distinguished character actor, with his little drama, "Richelieu's Stratagem," has become one of the solid successes of polite vaudeville. His tour of the circuits has been a triumph and his superb acting somewhat of a revelation to the patrons of the twice-a-day houses.

Queen Victoria is reported to have expressed a wish to see a genuine American comic opera, and Charles Frohman has de-termined to gratify the desire. He will present Edna May in "The Girl from Up There" at Windsor Castle for the kind consideration of the queen.

Robert Edeson has resigned his position as leading man with the Henrietta Cross-man "Mistress Nell" Company, and in consequence Sidney Booth makes his debut in that broad position Monday night. He is the son of Agnes Booth and has been playing leading juvenile roles for several years.

Willie Collier is reported to have signed for next season with Jacob Litt, severing his relations with Smyth and Perley. The centracts were signed Wednesday in Milwaukee. Mr. Lilt has a comedy from the pen of Augustus Thomas, which he expects be very successful with Collier in the

"The Burgomaster" was presented in New York for the first time last Monday night under many difficulties, Eleanor Ginsti and Lillian Coleman, two of the principals, being prevented from appearing on account of sickness. In addition seven of account of sickness. In addition seven of the chorus girls failed to appear for the same cause.

Roland Reed's health since he has left the hospital last week has shown remarkable improvement, and his close friends have been gladdened by his present ap-pearance. Mr. Reed's case has been a puz-zler for the New York physicians, and up to the present time they have been unable to diagnose the disease that has been troubling him for years.

In Hanton's "Superba" a very pretty sleigh bell dance is done by the eight Tiller girls, who, by the way, are a recent im-

When the big revival of "The Merchant of Venice" is made this spring by Nat Goodwin and Maxine Elliott it is the intention to have an all-star east by Manager Brooks, who will handle the venture. Actors of extraordinary value will be en-gaged, and it is expected the cast will be as strong as the celebrated "Rivals," which was presented by Jefferson some five years ago. Mr. Goodwin will, of course, play "Shylock" and Miss Elliott "Portia."

MUSICAL MENTION.

The Saengerbund will give the fourth of its musicales this season at its club house tomorrow night. Mr. Henry Xander, the musical director, has prepared a program that will prove highly interesting. The soloists will be Mr. Leo Stiefel, tenor; Miss Fannie, Koehle, violinist; Miss Amy Law, oprano; Miss Margaret Nolan-Martin, contralto, and Mr. Henry Gunson, tenor. Mr. Stiefel will sing Bartlett's "A Dream," Miss Koehle will play Wieniawski's "Legende" and Dessau's "Mazourka," Miss Law will sing Liszt's "Lorley" and, with Mr. Gunsen, the duet in the garden scene from "Faust," and Mrs. Martin will sing Quar-anta's "Only to Dream You Love Me" and Chaminade's "Madrigal" The Saengerbund will sing two choruses, Kroomer's "Grusse au die Heimath" and Xander's "Liebes-

Miss Estelle Wentworth, who is acting as substitute for Miss Dana in Foundry M E. Church quartet, will sing as offertory at tomorrow morning's service Coenen's "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say." Mis-Wentworth will be heard at the church until Miss Dana's return.

written by Harry B. Smith and A. Baldwin by Hubbard T. Smith, will be given by special request for the benefit of U.S. Grant Post, No. 6, G. A. B., at the National Rifles' Hall on the evening of January 22, under the direction of Mr. George Lawnce, assisted by his vocal pupils. peretta has been greatly improved and engthened by introducing some songs and duets from other operas, and will no doubt

draw a large audience. The Euterpe Club will hold its next meeting at its hall, 516 9th street northwest. Monday, January 14, instead of next Monday. The director, Mr. Angelo C. Fronani, is preparing an excellent program.

The evening service at Hamline M. E Church, 9th and P streets northwest, to-morrow will be given over to the choir, which has been augmented for the occasion. Charles H. Gabriel's sacred cantata. "The Holy One of Israel" will be rendered der the direction of Mr. William J. Palmer.

The Marquis Francesco De Souza Con-tinho, the celebrated Portuguese baritone, will make his New York debut at Carnegie Hall January 24, with full orchestra. His program soon to be announced, is of broad program soon to be announced, is of broad interest. M. L. Pinkham, who is managing his American tour, also announces his appearance in Washington, January 17, which will be done to permit his many friends among the foreign ministers here to hear him. De Souza is the cousin of the Vicomtess de Santo Thryso. wife of the Por-tuguese minister to Washington, and it is now the intention of the minister and many diplomats to attend the Washington and New York concerts.

Martinus Sieveking, the Dutch pianist, now in this country, will give an unusually interesting recital at Mendelssohn Hall, New York city, January 18. The Damrosch Society will give its sec-

ond concert at the Congregational Church February 5. The soloists will be Mr. Ericcon Bushnell, bass; Mr. Miersch, 'cello, and Mrs. H. Clay Browning, soprano. The so ciety will also take an active part in the or gram. The resignation of Mr. Edmund Varela as conductor of the society is greatly regretted by the members. This action was taken by Mr. Varela only on the advice of his physician, who found that he was overworking himself and needed rest. A special committee is considering the names of several musicians as his succesor, but no decision has yet been reached.

PARCHMENT GIVEN UP.

in England. From the London Telegraph.

Sir Francis Jeune, on Monday last, pronounced a judicial separation between probate lawyers and parchment. There is not an absolute divorce, because, although on and after January next grants and engrossments in the probate division will be on special paper instead of parchment, the latter time-honored material for legal docu ments may be used if it is particularly desired. It is well that this permission is at-R. A. Barnet, the author of "1492," has tached to the injunction, for the mind rehe coils from the idea of any branch of the law being entirely disassociated fron parchment.

Precisely what the object of this change is not quite clear. It is stated that the public will save something like £8,000 a year. This sum would buy a considerable quantity of parchment in the ordinary way but perhaps things are different in the legal market. A sheet of parchment would cost threepence or fourpence from a stationer, but when it finds its way into a lawyer's bill of expenses, for pence read whilling the content of the shillings. The special paper would cost about a penny a sheet; it remains to be seen what its legal value will be. Possibly claimants for probate may have a better idea of the value of paper than they have

The question, however, arises whether the ublic will regard paper, special as it may be, as a satisfactory substitute for parch-ment. Grants in probate are, of course, not like leases of estates, deeds and other classes of legal documents, and are not often required to withstand the effects of time to the same degree. Still the public prefers to have its law documents in an enluring form; and, although it may save £8,000, the individual will probably save only a few shillings, and would rather have more expensive but more lasting mate-l. Fiction writers would often be hard put to it if they could not produce musty parchment documents of ancient date, proving that the poor but honest here is entitled to the family estate. But, in hard fact, the value of endurance in the material of legal documents has too often been shown to lead the public to put faith readily in anything but parchment. Still special paper has been used for some time now for affidavits and memorials for the registry of deeds. Perhaps the time may come when there will be special kinds of material for different kinds of documents, according to ...e period over which they are to endure ranging from veilum for leases of estates to tissue paper for promises in love letters. An explanation of the change which has been given in one quarter is that Somerset House, whence issue the grants and engrossments, is at odds with nature. Somer-set House wants stout parchment of a uniform thickness. Nature refuses to supply it. It results from this provision that the parchment cut from one part of an animal's hide is thicker than that from another, and it cannot be made uniform. another, and it cannot be made uniform. Her majesty's stationery office, acting, of course, on intimations from Somerset House, wants all the stoutest parchment; but the manufacturers would then be left to dispose of the thinner material to private customers, who naturally grumble. Moreover, the stationery office does not wish to pay a higher price for the privinge of

The manufacturers of parchment are not greatly disturbed by Sir Francis Jeune's decree. The probate grants and engrossments are only a part of the vast number of legal documents, and people will still go on ac-quiring parchment by the more or less ex-pensive ways of law for more years than

one can foretell. The Choral Society.

The Choral Society had a very pleasant end-of-the-century celebration at their rehearsal hall on Monday evening. There was dancing until 11, and then vocal solos portation from London. They appear dressed like Robinson Crusoes, and play several concerted pieces, with orchestrate accompaniment. Their imitations of a military band are also novel and very clever. They also dance a Parisian quadrille that has many clever features in it.

was dancing until 11, and then vocal solos by Miss Beatrice Hottel and Miss Kate M. Ellis: a piano duet by the Misses Pollard and choruses by the society, followed by an eloquent address by Rev. John Van Schaick. The board of managers met on Thursday evening and received a received a received. evening and received a report showing that the attendance at the last concert was the largest of any concert ever held by the so-ciety in the Congregational Church, and ciety in the Congregational Church, and that after paying the expenses of the concert there was over \$900 in the treasury. It was decided that the society should sing at the Bispham recital on January 29 "Thanks Be to God," from "Elijah," and a chorus from Parker's "Hora Novissima," the whole of which is to be given at the February

Washington's Popular Family Theater.

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ACT I-Mr. Merryweather's Lodgings. ACT II—Drawing Room at Marguerite Otto's. ACT III—Harold Hunting's Apartments.

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LEW HAWKINS, and A New Set of Living Pictures.

WEEK JAN. 14--"Little Egypt" Burlesquers and Toozoonir Arab Troupe-- New Show.

who had become connected with a theater | Afternoon,

and wished a patriotic song to sing at his benefit."

Francis Hopkinson was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the Dr. Morgan referred to was the first sur-geon general of Washington's army and the elder brother of my great grandfather, Colonel George Morgan of the revolution. JAMES MORRIS MORGAN.

The music of the national hymn entitled "Hail Columbia" was written in 1789 by a "Hail Columbia" was written in 1789 by a German named Fyles, who was the leader of the orchestra at St. John's Theater in New York, and was at first called "The President's March." It was especially composed for Washington when he visited that theater. There never has been any doubt that the words were written by Francis Hopkinson, and he is so given the credit in John Philip Sousa's "Music of credit in John Philip Sousa's "Music of All Nations," but in using the music as a program number it has always been credited to Fyles, who wrote it.

Wherein Man is Superior. rom the New York Herald.

Man is a perfected marsupial. He is a creature of pockets. With him the necessity of a pouch simply develops one. This is the law of evolution.

The first we read of him as a pocketbearing animal he was on a level with the kangaroo. He then had one pouch fastened to his belt. Now look at him and compare him to women, for whom—in his chivalry—he is truly sorry. She, in her helplessness, is usually behind the kangaroo, and at her best only equals him with the one pouch best only equals him with the one pouch fastened at her waist. She has not evolved through the laws of nature, but under the sterner decrees of the dressmaker.

Be to God." from "Ellath." J. all allows the spreamed by Jefferson some five years ago. Mr. Goodwin will, of course, plant of the spreaming of the New Grand this week as one of the three of the dressmaker.

Hester Armstrong, who is appearing at the New Grand this week as one of the spreaming of the New Grand this week as one of the three of the dressmaker. There Rosebuds in the sketch "Examination Day at School," is a Washington girl of promise. While a resident of this eity of promise. While the while the could be addressed to the editor of the Explain.

The Sure Cure.

From Pixla Mik While Play, "residual think," is a credit

KERNAN'S

DEVERE'S

MOVING PICTURES, CORBETT-McCOY FIGHT. Next Week-GAY MORNING GLORIES, d31-6t, 15

Interest Laws of China. From the Forum.

The interest laws of China, with which the operations of banking are intimately connected, date from the year 1250 of our era. The enormous rate of interest is curiously defended by several writers. It results, they say, in securing economy, in order that the borrower may repay the loan, in producing greater industry, in deterring persons from borrowing, in reducing the number of renters of land, thus increasing the number of land owners, and in inducing circumspection in regard to new enterprises. It is further stated by men of business that this 30 per cent is also a maximum founded on the probability that the oscillations in the price of silver will never exceed that sum. It must be understood also that the ordinary rate of interest rarely exceeds 20 or 22 per cent, and that money may be had as low as 12 per cent, though the rate sometimes exceeds even 30 per cent.

Hadn't the Heart to Explain.

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The for further information apply at general confices, 7th st. wharf, Wash., D.C. 'Phone 756 and \$25.00, at box offices.